

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 10, 2003

By: 

Arthur S. Garrett
Reg. No. 20,338

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT OF JANUARY 9, 2003

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Amendments to the Claims

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 [or 9], further comprising coating the microsphere with a film after preparing the microsphere [or heating in the oxidizing atmosphere] and before irradiating with an effective dosage of slow neutrons, the film comprising at least one of the compounds selected from silica (SiO_2), titania (TiO_2), alumina (Al_2O_3), iron (III) oxide (Fe_2O_3), silicon nitride (Si_2N_3 , SiN , Si_3N_4), aluminum nitride (AlN), titanium nitride (TiN), iron nitride (Fe_2N , Fe_4N), silicon carbide (SiC) and titanium carbide (TiC).

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com